

Aquifer Protection Committee Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2002

The Aquifer Protection Committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing, discussing and providing recommendations to other Town boards on issues pertaining to the protection of aquifers in the Town of Amherst. The main concern of the Committee is safeguarding the integrity of the Lawrence Swamp Aquifer, which supplies approximately 50% of the potable water in Amherst. The Committee holds public meetings when appropriate, to discuss technical issues related to the aquifers. These issues include: 1) review of proposed work plans by Tighe and Bond, the Town's water supply consultant; 2) design of water quality monitoring programs; 3) review and evaluation of consultant reports; 4) serving as consultants to representatives from the DPW or the Conservation and Planning departments on policies and activities affecting land use change within the aquifer protection district and recharge area. We are also available for technical support at Town Meetings when needed. We occasionally become involved in special projects in cooperation with faculty and students from one of the local colleges. We oversee and provide guidance on any project that involves investigation of the Town's groundwater resources. The Committee is comprised of four professional hydrogeologists and two lay persons.

During fiscal year 2002, the Committee met on June 11, 2002 at 8:30 a. m. in the Department of Public Works conference room. In attendance were Stephen Mabee (Chair), Lyons Witten, Jesse Schwalbaum, Chad Johnson, Dana Snyder (Associate Member), Ward Motts (Associate Member), Robert Pariseau (Director of Water Resources, Town of Amherst), Jason Skeels (Town Engineer), Guilford Mooring Superintendent of Amherst DPW, in part).

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss any recent activities affecting the water supply. Topics discussed during the meeting included: 1) the status of the Chapel Road sewer extension, 2) status of GIS mapping in the water supply watersheds, 3) a review of water quality data from the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program, and 4) a discussion of the water levels in observation wells near pumping well no. 5. Overall, the quantity and quality of water within the Town was found to be in good condition despite the drought situation. The Committee recommended that the water levels in observation wells near pumping well no. 5 continue to be monitored.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen B. Mabee